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Minutes of the AGS/RHIC
Users Executive Committee Meeting
20 November 1995

Present: H. Crawford, T. Hemmick, D. Hertzog, P. Meyers, W. Molzon
(chair),
G. Stephans, C. Woody, P. Yamin (secretary)

Absent: R. Appel, D. Weygand

The meeting was convened at 0930. The UEC members introduced themselves and began a general discussion, generally following the Draft Agenda. (See attachment.)

It was suggested that the weekly schedule, updated after each Time Meeting, be posted on the AGS WWW page. (Peter Yamin will speak to Phil Pile about this.)

Bill Molzon commented that one of the principal functions of the UEC is to act as liaison between the Users and the BNL management, particularly with respect to quality of life issues. Craig Woody reported briefly (in Robin Appel's absence) on the progress that has been made in housing, partly based on UEC requests. Air conditioning will be installed in Cavendish and Curie this fall, and some of the furnishing (mattresses) have been replaced. More telephone lines will be installed. Dave Hertzog commented on the quality of the BNL dorms, particularly the lack of soundproofing. We discussed further improvements (non-smoking rooms, quiet areas for shift workers, improved ventillation, etc.) and agreed to write another letter to Nick Samios requesting these improvements. Dave Hertzog also said that \$15/day Cavendish is too spartan and that the \$60/day guest house is too expensive. He suggested that there would be a demand for an intermediate quality dorm, on the level of the CERN guest house, priced at about \$30/day. We agreed to look into that.

Tom Hemmick reported that the Graduate Student Club was now successfully operating independently of the Users Group, holding lunchtime meetings on one or

two Wednesdays each month. (Molzon commented that they learn the difference between "bimonthly" and "semimonthly.") Tom said that because of a teaching conflict he had been unable to attend recently, but that the reports had been good.

Molzon reported that Dennis Weygand has agreed to maintain the WWW home page for the UEC. He will also work at getting mailservers going for various groups: the UEC, all current spokespersons, and possibly the full users group. We will request some help in the form of a programmer to work on that.

Bill Molzon relayed some concerns about the future of HEEP. He said that Joe Bauernfeind may retire. If he is not replaced, BNL will lose the ability to repair many types of modules, such as Fastbus SSPs. This is of considerable concern to the high energy users. Tom Hemmick agreed to survey the RHIC users to determine their continuing need for electronic servicing, and George Stephans will do the same for the heavy ion users.

Dave Hertzog reported on the Indiana NSAC meeting. He said that a continuing AGS fixed target program in the RHIC era does not have widespread support in the nuclear community. This may be because the (small) incremental cost of such a program is not fully appreciated. Dave suggested that this information be made more readily available.

It was noted that the survey of user satisfaction with the AGS product that was done by the UEC two years ago at the request of Derek Lowenstein had been a useful exercise. The UEC is willing to conduct such a survey again if requested.

At 1100 Tom Kirk, Derek Lowenstein, and Nick Samios joined the meeting. Tom began by describing the current HEP funding situation. He said that as a result of the final DOE funding bill BNL now has enough money for 12 weeks of operation in FY96. (The first financial plan, based on the Senate budget, would have only supported 6 weeks!) He said that he will continue to ask press for a full 25-week program, but that this could most effectively be done once a successful

run is well underway. He explained that the DOE is now committed to supporting HEP at the AGS until 1999, and perhaps beyond. He views 1997 as probably another difficult year for funding, but 1998 and 1999 as getting easier. Tom also described his recent trip with Nick to Washington. First, they met with Wilmot Hess, and were later joined by John O'Fallon. Tom said that principle of continued AGS operation for world-class physics was accepted, contingent on adequate funding. In order to inspire such a program, Tom and Nick have asked Laurie Littenberg and Jack Sandweiss to co-chair an "AGS 2000" workshop. The workshop would be held in the spring or summer of 1996 and should generate real proposals. (The UEC was enthusiastic about "AGS 2000" and wanted to be involved in its organization.) Hess and O'Fallon agreed that the DOE would sponsor the workshop and provide a modest amount of funding support. Both Nick and Tom felt that their mission to the DOE was highly successful.

There followed a general discussion about how the Users could most effectively solicit increased DOE support for the BNL program. Nick Samios suggested that they begin by thanking John O'Fallon for increment from 6 weeks to 12. Tom and Nick continually emphasized the point that Users describing the good physics they have done, are doing, and can do with a full 25-week run can be very effective at the DOE. Bill Molzon said that he would write to O'Fallon emphasizing the importance of running time, and follow this up with a visit from a UEC delegation.

The interaction of the UEC with both Congress and the OMB was discussed. Past meetings have been very successful in soliciting support (for the facilities utilization initiative, for example). The UEC agreed that Molzon would continue trying to arrange a meeting with OMB, and would initiate a discussion with the staffs of appropriate congresspersons. Hank Crawford will help with that, since he knows the contact persons in Washington and has been very effective in the past.

Derek, Tom, and Nick left the meeting at about 1230. The discussion

continued for another hour. The date for the next meeting was discussed; a meeting after the beginning of the run was agreed to, but the date is not set. The UEC agreed to communicate by e-mail and teleconference in the interim. The meeting was adjourned at 1345.

--William R. Molzon
Peter Yamin

22 November 1995

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DRAFT AGENDA FOR UEC MEETING
November 20 1995
Physics Building 2-160

8:30 Coffee and pastries available

9:30 Discussion of goals of UEC

Request for "point person" for RHIC, HIP

WWW and mailservers -- D. Weygand
request for volunteer and support

Graduate student club T. Hemmick

Report on progress with housing-- C. Woody
suggestions for further improvement

Plans for HEEP W. Molzon

Feedback to the AGS W. Molzon

Input from spokespersons W. Molzon

Report on Indiana meeting D. Hertzog

Activities towards soliciting support W. Molzon
for the lab -- OMB and congress

11:00 Discussion with the lab directorate (Tom Kirk and Nick Samios)

-- Goals for near term (1997-1999)

-- Fixed target in the RHIC era
heavy ions and protons

-- AGS 2000

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-- Interactions with the DOE  
-- Soliciting support
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